



Dear Parents

Thursday 27th May 2021

It has been a real pleasure to welcome parents in person to Oak, Chestnut and Lime Tree Class assemblies this week, as well as to a rather damp cricket fixture on Wednesday. Oak and Chestnut classes performed a Japanese welcome and then delighted us with their dramatizations of *Three Billy Goats Gruff* complete with singing and acting. Lime Tree class shared the Japanese story *The Two Frogs*, performed haikus, showed us their cherry blossom paintings and sang in Japanese. Spectators at cricket were equally entertained by the sport played in very English conditions and we were delighted that our U11 boys' team progressed to the regional stages of the pairs competition, having competed at the Langley tournament yesterday.



Pupils in Years 5-7 have been undertaking school exams this week, and I was pleased to see the children trying their best in these assessments and using the revision time wisely. Year 8, meanwhile, complete their Common Entrance exams the week after half term and I wish them all good luck. I know many have been working industriously in revision lessons and have planned their personal revision timetables for next week. We were thrilled by the news that Honor has been offered a sports scholarship to Ampleforth, adding to the impressive list of senior school awards already offered to Town Close children, listed in the bulletin.



Exams and no Friday school have meant no usual Prep assemblies this week, though it was lovely to join Years 3 & 4 on Wednesday for junior assembly learning more about global warming with Mr Avenal. The children seemed both engaged and commendably knowledgeable. Pre Prep assembly was about *Eat Your Peas* discussing being brave with our food choices, while Bird Families talked about being assertive, using the *Mr Men* stories *Mr Strong*, *Mr Weak* and *Mr Mean* as inspiration.



We heard this week that our chosen children's book reviews are now on display at Waterstones in Norwich. Elsewhere, Little Acorns have been reading *Frog Olympics* and painting the famous rings. I joined Chestnut for PE, where we moved like different animals, including frogs, while Year 1 were busy making Shinto shrines in the Japanese garden. Year 2 have been making colourful clay fish in art and using boom whackers in music. Year 3 were conducting experiments to study soil permeability and I also saw a class planning impressively for their Mexico tourist brochures. There were parachute games in PE, with children working together to launch balls into the sky, whilst our traditional Maypole celebrations were able to take place with Year 1&2 today, now they can be together in an outdoor bubble. Year 6 were enjoying their swimming, while Year 3&4 managed to develop their cricket skills in games, despite the unseasonable weather.



I have visited a number of classes for longer periods this week, with a memorable session producing Japanese *hapa zome* flower prints with Maple class, an informative lesson with Silver Birch researching facts about Japan in teams, writing animal themed rhyming couplets with Lime, practising computer keyboard skills with Willow, playing musical games with Lime and studying mathematical scales with Rowan. It is a privilege to see the education our children are receiving, something I realise has been more hidden from parents than usual due to current restrictions, which we hope will be able to ease soon.



A reminder that tomorrow is a teacher training day and children start their half term breaks from today! We hope this brings sunshine and relaxation and all of the children have a lovely week off, recharging their batteries ready for the second half of term.



With my best wishes